

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A data transform method for transforming a first data string into a second data string, comprising:

transforming data into frequency components;

coding the frequency components;

generating the first data string from the coded frequency components;

~~a replacement step of replacing first data contained in the first data string by~~ with second data comprising spectrum coefficient information of the frequency components;

~~a first generation step of generating the second data string by using~~ the second data ~~generated in said replacement step;~~ and

~~a usage license information addition step of adding, to the second data string, first usage license information including information indicating at least one condition for permitting the use of at least part of the second data string and information indicating the second data string which is permitted to be used based on said at least one condition,~~

wherein, when the second data string is used, the second data string which is permitted to be used is utilized based on the first usage license information.

2. (Currently amended) A data transform method according to claim 1, further comprising ~~an addition step of adding a third data string which is not contained in the first data string to the second data string,~~

~~wherein, in said usage license information addition step, the first usage license information including information indicating at least one condition for permitting the use of at least part of the second data string to which the third data string is added and information indicating the second data string to which the third data string is added and which is permitted to be used based on said at least one condition is added to the second data string to which the third data string is added.~~

3. (Currently amended) A data transform method according to claim 1, further comprising ~~a second generation step of generating a fourth data string required for reconstructing the first data string from the second data string generated in said first generation step,~~

wherein the fourth data string includes data for reconstructing the first data ~~replaced by the second data in said replacement step.~~

4. (Currently amended) A data transform method according to claim 3, wherein, ~~in said second generation step, the fourth data string including~~ includes second usage license information ~~including information~~ indicating at least one condition for permitting the use of at least part of the first data string and ~~information~~ indicating the first data string which is permitted to be used based on said at least one condition ~~is generated.~~

5. (Currently amended) A data transform method according to claim 3, wherein the second data string includes a third data string[[,]] and, ~~in said second~~

~~generation step~~, the fourth data string ~~including~~ includes second usage license information ~~including information~~ for erasing at least part of the second data string containing the third data string ~~is generated~~.

6. (Currently amended) A data transform method according to claim 3, wherein, ~~in said second generation step, a fifth data string which is not contained in the first data string, and~~ the fourth data string ~~including~~ includes second usage license information ~~including information~~ for adding ~~the~~ a fifth data string to the first data string ~~are generated~~.

7. (Currently amended) A data transform method according to claim 1, wherein, ~~in said usage license information addition step, the first usage license information is encrypted[[,]] and the encrypted first usage license information is added to~~ the second data string.

8. (Original) A data transform method according to claim 1, wherein said at least one condition includes at least one of information indicating the number of usages of the second data string, information indicating an expiry date of the second data string, information indicating a period for which the second data string is used, and information indicating a time for which the second data string is used.

9. (Currently amended) A data transform method according to claim 1, wherein, ~~in said replacement step, the first data is replaced by the second data so that~~

the playback quality of the second data string is lower than the playback quality of the first data string.

Claim 10 (Cancelled)

11. (Currently amended) A data transform method according to claim ~~40~~ 1, wherein after coding, the first data includes at least one of normalizing-coefficient information ~~used for coding processing in said coding step~~, quantizing-precision information ~~used for coding processing in said coding step~~, and variable-length codes ~~generated in said coding step~~.

Claim 12 (Cancelled).

13. (Currently amended) A data transform method according to claim ~~42~~ 1, wherein the second data is data in which at least part of the first data is replaced by random data.

14. (Original) A data transform method according to claim 1, wherein the first data string and the second data string include audio data.

15. (Original) A data transform method according to claim 2, wherein the third data string includes audio data.

16. (Original) A data transform method according to claim 3, wherein the fourth data string includes audio data.

17. (Original) A data transform method according to claim 6, wherein the fifth data string includes audio data.

18. (Original) A data transform apparatus for transforming a first data string into a second data string, comprising:

transforming means for transforming data into frequency components;

coding means for coding the frequency components;

generating means for generating the first data string from the coded frequency components;

replacement means for replacing first data contained in the first data string by with second data comprising spectrum coefficient information of the frequency components;

generation means for generating the second data string by using the second data generated by said replacement means; and

usage-license-information addition means for adding, to the second data string, usage license information including information indicating at least one condition for permitting the use of at least part of the second data string and information indicating the second data string which is permitted to be used based on said at least one condition,

wherein, when the second data string is used, the second data string which is permitted to be used is utilized based on the usage license information.

19. (Currently amended) A recording medium storing a program to cause an information-processing apparatus to perform a method ~~computer-executable program~~ for controlling a data transform apparatus that transforms a first data string into a second data string, the method comprising:

transforming data into frequency components;

coding the frequency components;

generating the first data string from the coded frequency components;

~~a replacement step of replacing first data contained in the first data string by~~ with second data comprising spectrum coefficient information of the frequency components;

~~a generation step of generating the second data string by using~~ the second data ~~generated in said replacement step;~~ and

~~a usage license information addition step of adding, to the second data string, usage license information including information~~ indicating at least one condition for permitting the use of at least part of the second data string and ~~information~~ indicating the second data string which is permitted to be used based on said at least one condition,

wherein, when the second data string is used, the second data string which is permitted to be used is utilized based on the usage license information.

Claims 20-38 (Cancelled).